

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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P 200220Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9931

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 0794

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: LORAN A

SUMMARY: GOP HAD FORWARDED TO EMBASSY NOTE REQUESTING EXTENSIVE US SUPPORT FOR OPERATION OF LORAN A STATIONS OVER AND ABOVE ASSISTANCE NOW PROVIDED. NOTE DOES NOT INDICATE GOP DESIRE TO DEVELOP CAPABILITY TO OPERATE STATIONS ON OWN. OUR COMMENTS ON VARIOUS REQUESTS ARE APPENDED. RATHER THAN DEAL FORMALLY WITH SUCH REQUEST, WE WOULD PROPOSE SITTING DOWN INFORMALLY WITH GOP REPS; WE WOULD ALSO SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MAY WISH REVIEW BIDDING RE US INTEREST IN LORAN A STATIONS. REQUEST DEPT COMMENT AND GUIDANCE.

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED NOTE 75-77 FROM DFA ON JAN 17 PROVIDING GOP POSITION ON FUTURE OPERATION OF LORAN A. TEXT OF NOTE, FOLLOWING TWO INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPHS, IS QUOTED BELOW. COPY OF NOTE IS BEING POUCHED TO EA/PHL.

QUOTE: ACCORDING TO PHILIPPINE NAVY, THERE IS STILL A NEED OFR THE U.S. COAST GUARD TO CONTINUE PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE LORAN STATIONS IF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD IS TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THESE STATIONS AT AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF EFFICIENCY. THE LORAN SPARE PARTS ARE PECULIAR ITEMS WHICH ARE READILY AVAILABLE FROM THE U.S. COAST GUARD ONLY. FURTHERMORE, THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE WHICH THE U.S. COAST GUARD PERSONNEL POSSESS IN THE REPAIR OF THE LORAN EQUIP-
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MENT ARE DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE. FINALLY, THE PHILIPPINE

COAST GUARD FACILITIES ARE AT PRESENT INADEQUATE TO PROMPTLY CORRECT DEFICIENCIES IN THE VITAL EQUIPMENT.

ACCORDINGLY, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS THE HONOR TO PROPOSE THAT THE U.S. COAST GUARD -

A. MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE ITS MATERIAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE MAJOR LORAN EQUIPMENT LISTED IN ANNEX A.

B. PROVIDE AND EXPAND SUPPORT FOR THE MINOR EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES LISTED IN ANNEX B. THESE ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE OTHER FACILITIES OF THE STATIONS.

C. CONTINUE PROVIDING TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING TRAINING OF PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD PERSONNEL IN THE INTEREST OF PROMOTING EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE LORAN STATIONS.

D. PROVIDE THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD WITH AT LEAST TWO APPROPRIATE AIRCRAFT WITH NECESSARY SUPPORT TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE LOGISTICS RUN AND OTHER ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE LORAN STATIONS.

E. PROVIDE ONE (1) APPROPRIATE VESSEL TO BE USED FOR REFUELLING THE LORAN STATIONS AT LEAST TWICE A YEAT. THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THIS REQUEST COULD BE ACCORDED PROMPT CONSIDERATION IN THE INTEREST OF SAFE AIR AND SURFACE NAVIGATION IN THIS AREA.

THE DEPARTMENT AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

2. AS DEPT WILL NOTE, GOP REQUEST FOR CONTINUED US SUPPORT TO OPERATE LORAN A STATIONS IS COUCHED IN OPEN-ENDED AND PERPETUAL TERMS. NOTE DOES NOT SUGGEST DISIRE ON PHILIPPINE PART TO ACQUIRE CAPABILITY TO OPERATE STATIONS WITHOUT EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS CONTEXT ARE GENEROUSLY EXPRESSED. COMMENTS FOLLOW SEQUENTIALLY ON FIVE SUB-PARAGRAPHS OF PHILIPPINE REQUEST.

3. SUB-PARAGRAPH (A), REQUESTING SUPPORT FOR EQUIPMENT IN ANNEX A, WOULD REPRESENT MAJOR EXPANSION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN LORAN A STATIONS, COMPRISING SUPPORT OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER HEAVY EQUIPMENT WHICH WE TURNED OVER IN 1970 AND CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE ASSISTED ONLY marginally and informally since then. CONCEIVABLY GOP HAS CONFUSED ANNEX A WITH ANNEX C UNDER WHICH WE NOW WORK.

4. SUB-PARAGRAPH KB)N REQUESTING SUPPORT OF ANNEX BN WGFLD APPEAR TO BE ATTEMPT TO GET U.S. TO REPLACE AND MAINTAIN VARIOUS SMALL ITEMS SUCH AS TYPEWRITERS AND SO ON THAT WERE TURNED OVER TO GOP IN 1970.

5. SUB-PARAGRAPH (C), REQUESTING TRAINING, GOES CONSIDERABLY BEYOND PRESENT AGREEMENT. TRAINING SCHOOL WHICH WE AGREED TO SET UP AT SANGLEY POINT AND EQUIP IN 1970, AND TO ASSIST IN GETTING UNDER WAY, HAS NEVER BEEN UTILIZED BY GOP. SOME GOP TECHNICIANS TRAINED AT GOVERNOR'S ISLAND TO HELP IN OPERATING SCHOOL AMONG OTHER THINGS, HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED OTHER DUTIES. GOP HAS OCCASIONALLY ASKED FOR REASSUMPTION OF TRAINING IN U.S. AS NECESSARY INCENTIVE TO GET FILIPINOS TO SERVE ON LORAN A DUTY AND HAS NOT RESPONDED TO OUR SUGGESTIONS URGING USE OF LOCALLY-BASED SCHOOL.

6. SUB-PARAGRAPH (D), REQUESTING TWO AIRCRAFT, IS SOMEWHAT REDUNDANT REQUEST. AS DEPT MAY RECALL, WE TURNED OVER FOUR HU-16 AMPHIBIAN-EQUIPPED AIRCRAFT TO GOP IN 1970 WITH VERBAL UNDERSTANDING THAT ONE AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED IN SUPPORT OF LORAN A STATIONS. IN ABSENCE OF CAPABILITY ON PART OF EITHER PHILIPPINE NAVY OR COAST GUARD TO FLY THESE AIRCRAFT, PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE PERFORMED SERVICE UNTIL EARLY 1972, AT WHICH TIME SERVICE DISCONTINUED. DISCONTINUANCE CONNECTED IN PART WITH FACT THAT AMPHIBIAN CAPABILITY OF CRAFT HAD DETERIORATED, NOT ALL STATIONS CAN BE SERVICED FROM AIRCRAFT RESTRICTED TO LANDING ON GROUND, AND PREOCCUPATION OF PAF WITH OTHER MATTERSM PHILIPPINE NAVY AND PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD STILL DO NOT HAVE FLYING CAPABILITY.

7. SUB-PARAGRAPH (E), REQUESTING ONE APPROPRIATE VESSEL, IS ALSO REDUNTANT. WE GAVE GOP THE EX-USCG CUTTER REDBUD, SUBSEQUENTLY RENAMED RPS KALINGA, IN 1972. SHIP REQUIRED SOME REPAIRS WHICH GOP HAS NEVER FULLY CARRIED OUT. IF MADE FULLY OPERATIONAL, IT COULD SATISFY REQUIREMENT FOR SUPPLY.

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ACTION EB-07

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P 200256Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9932

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 0794

8. COMMENT: LIST SUGGESTS THAT GOP HAS NOT THOUGHT OUT VERY SERIOUSLY ITS INTEREST IN AND CAPABILITY OF OPERATING LORAN A STATIONS, DESPITE CONCLUDING REFERENCE IN ITS NOTE TO SAFE AIR AND SURFACE NAVIGATIONM RATHER THAN EMBARK ON FORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF THIS REQUEST, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO SIT DOWN INFORMALLY WITH GOP TO EXPLORE QUESTION GENERALLY WITH COAST GUARD COMMODORE OGBINAR.

9. IN VIEW OF EXPANSIVE REQUEST FROM GOP, SUGGEST DEPT MAY WISH TO REVIEW AGAIN U.S. REQUIREMENT FOR LORAN A STATIONS IN PHILIPPINES.

10. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT COMMENT ANF GUIDANCE.
SULLIVAN

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